

Ser. No. 09/759,766
Attorney Docket No. 2359-00

REMARKS

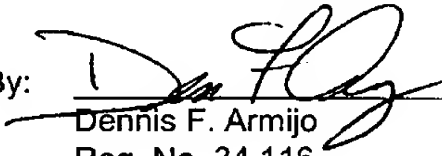
Pursuant to the Examiner's election and restriction requirement, Applicant was required to elect a single disclosed species from each of the four groups of species for prosecution on the merits. The Applicant selects Species E: Figure 9 from the group of species labeled Mini-bridges. The Applicant cannot select a species from the group of species entitled Deployment of mini-bridges because the elected species is not deployable. From the group of species labeled Synthetic muscle, the applicant selects Species A: Polymer hydrogels, polymer gels, PMMA, polypropylene, silicone polymers, polysilicones, light curable polymeric melts, and plastics (embodied, for example, in claim 6). For the group of species entitled Surgical instrument, the Applicant selects Species A: Syringe (Figure 12(A)). The claims that are readable upon the elected species from the elected groups of species are claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, and amended claim 20. The amendment to claim 20 was made to delete the electroactive ionic polymeric artificial muscles only.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayment under 37 CFR §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required during the entire pendency of the application to Deposit Account No. 01-2335

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Respectfully submitted,

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In the claims:

Claims 3, 7, 8, 9, and 11 have been withdrawn pursuant to an election/restriction requirement.

Claim 20 has been amended.

1. (Original) An apparatus for augmenting near vision accommodation by contraction of the ciliary muscles of the eye by reinforcement of at least one set of zonular fibers, the apparatus comprising at least one bridge affixed to the at least one set of zonular fibers.
2. (Original) The invention of claim 1 wherein said at least one bridge comprises a symmetric distribution of said at least one bridge.
3. (Withdrawn)
4. (Original) The invention of claim 1 wherein said at least one bridge comprises a biocompatible material.
5. (Original) The invention of claim 1 wherein said at least one bridge comprises a synthetic muscle.
6. (Original) The invention of claim 5 wherein said synthetic muscle comprises a member from the group consisting of polymer hydrogels, polymer

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gels, polymethylmethacrylate (PMMA), polypropylene, silicone polymers, polysilicones, light curable polymeric melts, and plastic.

7. (Withdrawn)

8. (Withdrawn)

9. (Withdrawn)

10. (Original) The invention of claim 5 wherein said synthetic muscle comprises an active material.

11. (Withdrawn)

12. (Original) A method of correcting presbyopia and hyperopia on demand, the method comprising the steps of:

- a. affixing at least one bridge to at least one set of zonular fibers of the eye;
- b. transmitting a contraction force from the ciliary muscles to the at least one set of zonular fibers and the at least one bridge; and
- c. constricting the eye lens by an augmented contraction force from the at least one set of zonular fibers and the at least one bridge.

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13. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein the eye lens comprises an implanted lens.

14. (Original) The method of implanting at least one bridge in an eye for augmenting near vision accommodation, the method comprising the steps of:

- a. relaxing the ciliary muscle; and
- b. affixing the at least one bridge to at least one set of zonular fibers.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein the step of affixing the at least one bridge to at least one set of zonular fibers comprises affixing the at least one bridge to the canal of Hannover.

16. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein the step of affixing the at least one bridge to at least one set of zonular fibers comprises implanting the at least one bridge.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the step of implanting the at least one bridge further comprises implanting the at least one bridge to span the internal surfaces of the ciliary muscle and the ciliary processes to the surface of the lens capsule.

18. (Original) An apparatus for augmenting near vision accommodation by contraction of the ciliary muscles of the eye by reinforcement

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of zonular fibers, the apparatus comprising at least three circularly distributed bridges affixed symmetrically to the zonules wherein said at least three bridges span at least a portion of the internal surfaces of the ciliary muscles and the ciliary processes to the surface of the eye lens capsule.

19. (Original) The invention of claim 18 wherein said at least three bridges comprise synthetic muscles.

20. (Currently Amended) The invention of claim 19 wherein said synthetic muscle comprises a member from the group consisting of ~~electroactive ionic polymeric artificial muscle~~, light curable polymer melts and polymer gels.